

LONDON DAILY TELEGRAPH
1 September 1983

Russia lays bare plan to take over peace movements

By NIGEL WADE in Moscow

THE latest issue of the Soviet ideological journal, COMMUNIST, lays bare with startling candour Moscow's tactics for taking control of the international "peace movement."

The journal's leading article spells out how Communists are already working within Western trade unions, anti-nuclear groups, pacifist organisations, and even environmental groups to oppose the United States and its Nato allies.

It says that some Western Communists have been too slow in infiltrating such groups but that this is being corrected.

COMMUNIST denies that super-power rivalry is the cause of the nuclear arms race and puts the blame solely on the West.

It advances the theory that the fundamental antagonism between "socialism and imperialism" has assumed a "new and highly important form" and is turning into a global antagonism between the forces of imperialism and the interests of all mankind."

To lead the masses

On this interpretation, of America versus the rest of the world, the article says it is the duty of Communists to lead the world's working masses in efforts to avert nuclear catastrophe.

"Communists in dozens of countries understand that peace can be preserved and strengthened if peace-loving forces of the planet manage to take under their control the development of contemporary international life," the journal says.

COMMUNIST is the chief theoretical publication of the Soviet Communist party.

It adds: "The firm guarantee of peace, in the final analysis, is connected with the progressive and democratic structuring of all countries."

The journal notes the big anti-nuclear demonstrations in the West last spring and looks forward to even bigger ones this autumn. The article remarks with evident satisfaction that the demonstrations are increasingly being directed specifically against the United States.

Churchmen, too

COMMUNIST also notes that anti-war campaigners in Western Europe and the United States are increasingly making a connection between arms expenditures and the problem of unemployment. It describes how doctors, scientists, businessmen, churchmen, trade unionists and local councils in the West have joined the "peace" campaign.

Nevertheless the world situation urgently demands "new, additional efforts" from workers to "save human civilisation," the article says, and a special responsibility lies on Communists.

The Communist parties of West Germany, France, Greece, Austria, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States all get a pat on the back from COMMUNIST.

But the journal says that some Western Communists were slow to exploit independent pressure groups, although it adds "These defects have in the main been overcome."

It goes on: "It is no secret that at first certain comrades showed a lack of understanding of the essence of the anti-war movements." They "did not see in the members of these movements their objective allies in the struggle for peace."

The article says that Communists consider active participation in such organisations a crucial means of consolidating ties with the public and strengthening their influence on the organisations concerned.

A lot depends on Western Europe's Social-Democratic parties in this "peace campaign," the journal says. Some "Social-Democrats" are gradually acknowledging that the "threat to Europe" comes from the United States' "militaristic strivings."